

North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund



North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Farmland Preservation Division
Steve Troxler, Commissioner



NC Agricultural Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund

NCDA&CS

Article 61.

Agricultural Development and Preservation of Farmland.

Part 1. General Provisions.

§ 106-735. Short title and purpose.

- (a) This Article shall be known as "The Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Enabling Act."
- (b) The purpose of this Article is to authorize counties and cities to undertake a series of programs to encourage the preservation of qualifying farmland, as defined herein, and to foster the growth, development, and sustainability of family farms. (1985 (Reg. Sess., 1986), c. 1025, s. 1; 2005-390, ss. 2, 9.)

2017 Beehive Grant Fund

- Application Details:
 - ✓ Applications for grants accepted from October 16 – December 15, 2017.
 - ✓ Application accessed at www.ncadfp.org and by electronic means only.
 - ✓ Only a complete electronic application given consideration and numbered chronically as received.
 - ✓ A complete application included:
 - All grant application questions being answered
 - Documentation of age
 - Certification as a Certified Beekeeper by the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association
 - Documentation for proposed new hive(s) for bees

2017 Beehive Grant Fund

- Eligibility:

- ✓ Must be a North Carolina resident
- ✓ Must be at least 18 years of age
- ✓ Must be a Certified Beekeeper as determined by the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association at the time of filing the grant application

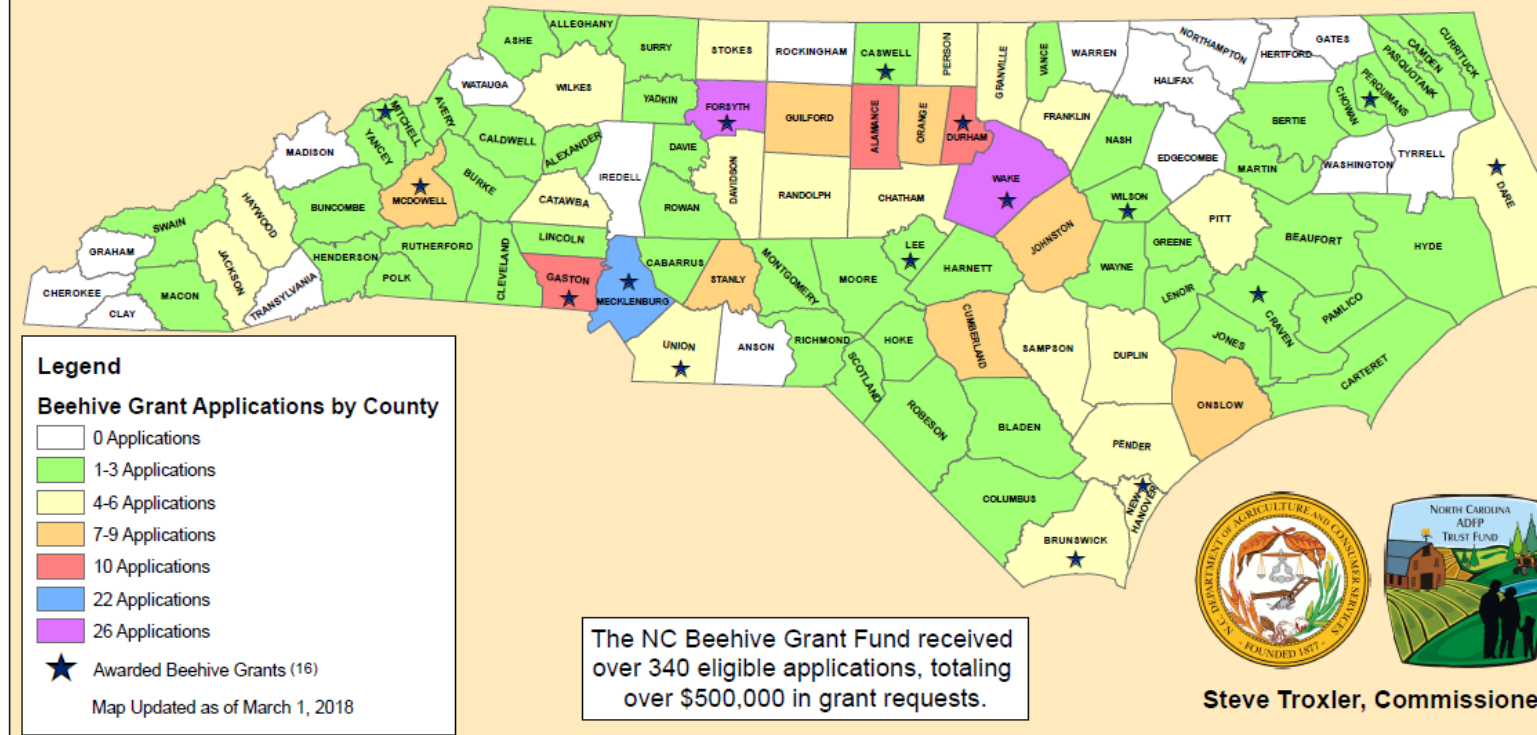
- Use of Grant Funding:

- ✓ The purchase of a new hive for bees
- ✓ The purchase of materials or supplies to be used for the construction of a new hive for bees
- ✓ Grant funding allocations dependent upon documented expenditures of the grant's contracted items
- ✓ Anticipated time for awarded grantees to redeem funding from the Beehive Grant Fund – *February 1 - June 30, 2018.*

2017 Beehive Grant Fund

- Grant Funding Limits and Amounts per Selected Grantee:
 - ✓ \$200 limit per new hive
 - ✓ \$2,400 maximum grant allowance per selected grantee
- Grantee Commitments for receiving Beehive Grant Funding:
 - ✓ Grantee shall provide annual documentation of the ownership and appropriate maintenance of the beehive structure(s) for 5 years following receipt of grant funding.
- Definitions:
 - ✓ *New hive for bees* - a container for housing domesticated honeybees
 - ✓ *Materials or supplies* – purchased construction items used exclusively for the building of a new hive for domesticated honeybees

NC Beehive Grant Fund 2017-18 Applications and Awards



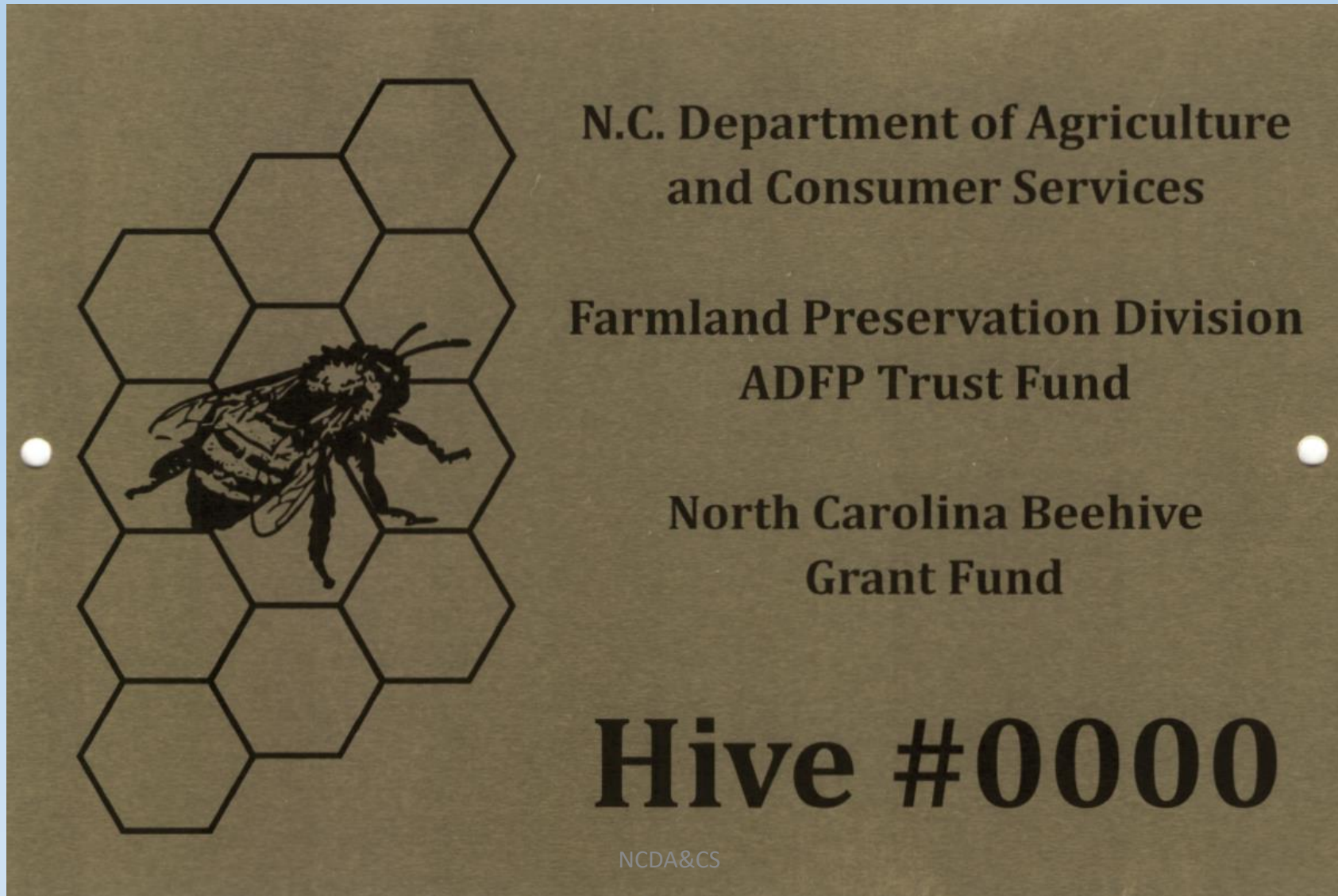
Current
Grantees
*Awarded By
Time
Stamped
Completed
Application*

4/10/2018

<u>Grantee Name</u>	<u>Grant Amount</u>
Arnold, Leigh Ann	\$400.00
Barfield, Phillip	\$2,400.00
Chamberlain, Ryan	\$1,400.00
Coy Jr., Paul	\$2,400.00
Harris, Barry	\$2,400.00
Hutson, Gladys	\$600.00
McMahan, Paul	\$1,000.00
Mejia, Michelle	\$2,400.00
Munely, Michael	\$2,000.00
Randall, Kenneth	\$1,000.00
Rosensteel, Jim	\$2,400.00
Shoemaker, Gary	\$1,600.00
Thomas, Richard	\$1,200.00
Ulberg, Jurt J	\$2,400.00
Well Jr., Thomas	\$600.00

Beehive Grant Tag

Each Hive Tagged for Monitoring





2017 Beehive Grant Financial as of			4/10/2018
Transaction	Amount \$	Contracted	Expensed
Beginning Balance	\$ 25,000.00		
Contracted		\$ 24,200.00	\$ 12,921.24
Beehive Tags			\$ 1,797.35
Totals	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 24,200.00	\$ 14,718.59

Beehive Grant Financials As of 4/10/2018

PRESS

Local beekeeper wins state grant for new bee hives

Michelle Mejia of Green Mountain is one of 15 beekeepers in North Carolina to be awarded the North Carolina Beehive Grant from the N.C. Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund, facilitated by the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association and N.C. Department of Agriculture.

The grant covers the cost of equipment for 12 beehives that must be maintained for five years.

Mejia is a member of Toe Cane Beekeepers Association and has been keeping bees for five years. Last year she became a "Certified Beekeeper" by the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association through their Master Beekeeper Program. Only certified beekeepers were eligible for the beehive grant. Mejia maintains her hives in Poplar at Poplar Creek Farm in Mitchell County and plans to keep some of the new hives in the Jacks Creek Community of Yancey County.

"My favorite part of beekeeping is the thrill of luring wild swarms in my swarm traps," Mejia said. "It's a misnomer that there are no more

wild honey bees, perpetuated by commercial beekeepers and disinformation. Bees have adapted over millions of years to prefer their colonies 20 feet above the ground, where they are safest from predators and therefore out of sight of humans."

"My experience with commercial-bred lines of bees is they are prone to disease and therefore short-lived. My first hive five years ago survived four months before succumbing to a serious case of Deformed Wing Virus bees with shriveled wings crawling around the ground below the hive not able to forage or return, resulting in the quick death of the colony. My goal as a beekeeper is to maintain colonies with local genetics and encourage others to do the same.

This helps to better ensure long-term survivability and success for all. Commercial bees with bad genes only pollute the favorable qualities of local survivor bees.

For short-term survival, they require treatments like miticides and antibiotics which are a detriment to their health.

and is costly to both the beekeeper and environment."

For more on designing your own bait hives for honey bees and recent data on wild colonies, she suggests reading the research of Tom Seeley. He is a Cornell University graduate and world authority on honey bees. Videos of his talks are also available on YouTube.

Mejia credits Rick Hardy, past president of the Toe Cane beekeepers and a Master Beekeeper, for his guidance in helping her attain the Certified rank, and for his work to create opportunities for beekeepers and others to learn more about the importance of bees.

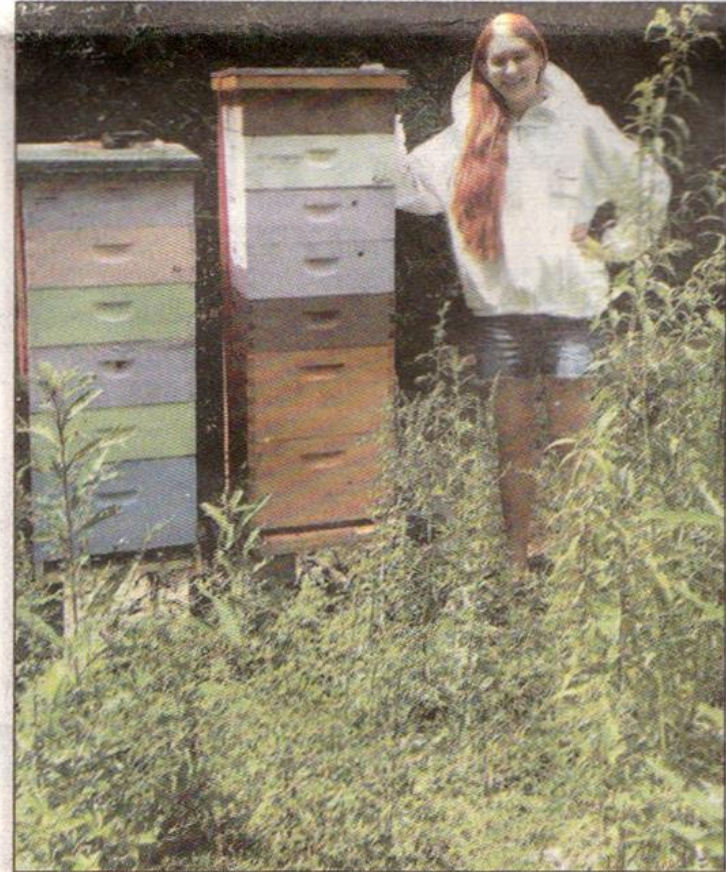
"I plan to dedicate these new hives to my dearly beloved grandmother, Joan Brookwell, who at 90 began to learn about and enjoy the fascinating life of honey bees with me before her recent passing," Mejia said.

As spring and swarming season approaches, Mejia looks forward to helping local residents with swarm removal and relocation of wild hives living in buildings. She is often available to help capture swarms at little or no cost.

Follow her on facebook via

her page, Moral Bee Company. She can also be reached at 828-688-1653, MichelleAMEjia@

gmail.com or through her farmstay website www.poplarcreekfarmstay.com.



Michelle Mejia stands by two swarms she caught in 2017. With her bait hives she no longer has to climb trees to retrieve her swarms."



Questions?

